

REMARKS

With this amendment Applicants amend claims 1-3 and adds claims 18-30. No new matter is added. Therefore, claims 1-30 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Formal Matters

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document was received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed December 4, 2003 are approved.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 4, 2003.

II. Objection to Claims 15-17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph

Claims 15-17 are objected to as allegedly being an improper application of 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Applicants submit that the self-explanatory amendments to the claims obviates the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection of claims 15-17.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-3 & 6-7 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-3 and 6-7 stand rejected under the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Molstad et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,842,305; hereinafter "Molstad"). Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable because each and every element of the claim is not disclosed or suggested by Molstad. Claim 1 recites:

A method for inspecting a head unit moving device, the method comprising the steps of:

running an inspection use tape in which a servo signal is written so as to meander, displaced in a width direction of a magnetic tape at a predetermined frequency and amplitude;

measuring a position of a head unit practically moved in a width direction of said inspection use tape in response to said servo signal;
and

calculating a difference between the position and a position to be instructed so as to move said head unit in response to said servo signal, wherein said head unit moving device moves said head unit having a servo signal reading head, a data signal recording head, and a data signal reproducing head in the width direction of said magnetic tape in response to said servo signal read from said magnetic tape by said servo signal reading head.

Applicants submit that Molstad fails to teach or suggest at least a method for inspecting a head unit moving device, the method comprising, *inter alia*, running an inspection use tape in which a servo signal is *written so as to meander*, displaced in a *width direction* of a magnetic tape *at a predetermined frequency* and amplitude, as required by amended claim 1. In the Office Action, the Examiner relies on column 1, lines 47-55, column 2, lines 52-61, column 3, line 18, column 6, lines 64-65 and column 12, lines 62 to column 13, line 13 of Molstad for the proposition that Molstad teaches all of the features of claim 1. However, there is simply no disclosure in Molstad teaching all of the features of claim 1.

In contrast to the limitations of claim 1, there is no teaching or suggestion in Molstad relating to a servo signal that is written so as to meander. As can be seen in FIGS. 3A-3C, 4A-4C, 5 and 6A-6B of Molstad, the servo patterns (e.g. 100, 150, 200) disclosed therein are not written so as to meander, as required by claim 1. Additionally, there is no teaching or suggestion in Molstad relating to a servo signal written so as to meander, displaced in a width direction of a

magnetic tape at predetermined frequency and amplitude either. Molstad, at best, teaches a tape 20 having a repeated servo pattern (e.g. 100) with a frequency in the length direction of the tape 20. For instance, column 10, lines 29-33 describes that the repeated servo pattern 100 includes multiple “servo [patterns] 101 repeated along the length of servo track 27” and that “[e]ach servo pattern 101 is recorded along the servo track at a distinct time period.” (emphasis added). As can be seen in FIGS. 4A and 5 of Molstad, “each servo pattern 101 is written at time t_0 , t_1 , t_2 , t_3 , and so on” (e.g. t_n , t_{n+1}) along the length direction of the servo track. (See Col. 10, lines 33-34; See also FIGS. 4B-4C).

Since Molstad merely teaches that the servo pattern (e.g. 100) disclosed therein is recorded along the servo track 27 on tape 20 along the length direction at a frequency, Molstad specifically teaches away from the requirement for running an inspection use tape in which a servo signal is written so as to meander, displaced in a *width direction* of a magnetic tape at a *predetermined frequency* and amplitude, as described by amended claim 1.

The Examiner’s general reliance on column 1, lines 47-55 of Molstad does not teach or suggest the requirement for running an inspection use tape in which a servo signal is written so as to meander, displaced in a width direction of a magnetic tape at a predetermined frequency and amplitude either. The cited portion of Molstad merely describes that in conventional boundary type servo systems, a servo track pattern extending along the length of magnetic media such as tape may be laterally divided in two regions and that the regions have distinct properties that can be detected by a servo read head. Even assuming *arguendo* that the regions may be recorded at a particular frequency or amplitude, there is no disclosure in the cited portion of Molstad teaching or suggesting that the servo track pattern referred to therein is written displaced

in a width direction of inspection use tape, as described by amended claim 1. There is also no teaching or suggestion that the servo track pattern referred to¹ is written in a width direction of tape at a predetermined frequency and amplitude, as claimed. The cited portion of Molstad is simply altogether silent regarding the manner in which a servo track pattern is written in tape. The servo track pattern of the conventional boundary type servo system could be written displaced in the length direction of the tape and as taught by the servo control system of Molstad, the servo pattern could be written in tape in the length direction at a frequency and amplitude.

Nowhere in the cited portion is there any disclosure that the tape containing the servo track pattern extending in the length direction is running either. Based on at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Molstad does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1 and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw § 102(e) rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claim 10.

With respect to claim 2, Applicants submit that Molstad fails to teach or suggest a manufacture method of an inspection use tape used for an inspection of a magnetic tape drive, wherein with displacing a servo signal writing head *writing* a servo signal in a magnetic tape *so as to meander in a width direction* of said magnetic tape at a predetermined frequency and amplitude, the *servo signal is written* in said magnetic tape, as required by amended claim 2. In rejecting claim 2, the Examiner seems to suggest that column 1, lines 47-55, column 2, lines 52-61 and column 6, lines 64-65 of Molstad teaches all of the features of claim 2. Applicants respectfully disagree.

¹ I.e., "the servo track pattern" described in column 1, lines 47-55 relating to the conventional boundary type servo system.

As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the servo patterns (e.g. 100, 150, 200) disclosed by Molstad are not written in tape (e.g. tape 20) so as to meander. As such, Molstad fails to teach or suggest at least the requirement for “writing a servo signal in a magnetic tape so as to meander.”

Additionally, there is no teaching or suggestion in Molstad relating to displacing a servo signal writing head writing a servo signal in a magnetic tape so as to meander *in a width direction* of said magnetic tape *at a predetermined frequency* and amplitude either. In rejecting claim 2, the Examiner appears to rely on column 1, lines 47-55 of Molstad as teaching displacement of a servo signal writing head which writes a servo signal in a width direction of tape at a predetermined frequency and amplitude. Column 1, lines 47-55 of Molstad merely describes that a servo read head may detect regions divided on magnetic media such as tape; however there is no teaching or suggestion relating to displacing a servo signal *writing head* writing a servo signal, as described by claim 2. Further, as discussed above with respect to claim 1, column 1, lines 47-55 of Molstad, which relates to a conventional boundary type servo system, is simply altogether silent regarding the manner in which the servo track pattern disclosed therein is written in tape. The servo track pattern could be written in the length direction of the tape at a frequency and amplitude for example as taught by the servo control system of Molstad (i.e., the “servo track configuration” described at col. 2, lines 52-61 of Molstad) and discussed above with respect to claim 1. (See col. 10, lines 29-34 & FIGS. 4A and 5 of Molstad). Given that Molstad fails to teach a servo signal written in a magnetic tape so as to meander and since Molstad does not teach a servo signal written in a width direction of magnetic tape at a frequency and amplitude, Molstad does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 2.

Additionally, Applicants submit that the Examiner has not addressed how the cited portion of Molstad teaches or suggests a tape which is an inspection use tape used for an inspection of a magnetic tape drive, as claimed. Nowhere in the cited portion of Molstad is there any teaching or suggestion of a tape used for an inspection of a magnetic tape drive, as claimed.

In view of the preceding discussion, Molstad fails to teach each and every element of claim 2. (*See* MPEP § 2131). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of claim 2 and its dependent claims 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15 and 17.

Since claim 3 contains features that are similar, though not necessarily coextensive to, the features recited in claim 2, Applicants submit that claim 3 is patentable at least for reasons analogous to those submitted for claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of claim 3 and its dependent claims 7, 12, and 16.

IV. Rejection of Claims 10-12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Molstad in view of Bellesis et al. (U.S. Patent Appln. Publn. 2003/0035238 A1; hereinafter "Bellesis"). Applicants submit that claims 10-12 are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for independent claims 1-3 and because Bellesis fails to make up for the deficiencies of Molstad. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 10-12.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4-5, 8-9 and 13-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since the prior art rejections of independent claims 1-3 have been overcome, (in view of the arguments presented above) Applicants submit that claims 4-5, 8-9 and 13-14 are patentable.

VI. New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 18-30 in order to more fully cover various aspects of Applicants' invention as disclosed in the specification. In addition to their respective dependencies from claims 1-3, Applicants submit that claims 18-30 should be allowable because the cited references do not teach or suggest the limitations of these claims.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

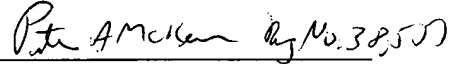
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